

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DR. ANDREI DMITRIEVICH SAKHAROV

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 239

Whereas 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. Sakharov”), who was born on May 21, 1921;

Whereas, although the work of Dr. Sakharov as a nuclear physicist earned him international respect and renown, his great genius and gift to history was to give voice to a global yearning for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas, in 1968, in an act of great courage and conscience, Dr. Sakharov published his treatise, “Thoughts On Progress, Peaceful Coexistence, And Intellectual Freedom”, in which he—

(1) offered a comprehensive vision for peace and progress;

(2) broke with the Soviet establishment over human rights; and

(3) opened himself up to years of official and state-sponsored retaliation;

Whereas, in 1970, Dr. Sakharov helped found the Committee on Human Rights in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (referred to in this preamble as the “USSR”), which documented human rights abuses in the USSR;

Whereas the advocacy of Dr. Sakharov for human rights at home and abroad was grounded in, and emerged from, his work for peace and against nuclear weapons proliferation;

Whereas, in his 1975 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, delivered by his wife Yelena Bonner because the USSR had barred him from attending the ceremony, Dr. Sakharov expressed his “hope in a final victory of the principles of peace and human rights” and the “liberation of all prisoners of conscience everywhere”;

Whereas the Nobel Peace Prize Committee called Dr. Sakharov “the spokesman for the conscience of mankind”;

Whereas the Government of the USSR exiled Dr. Sakharov and Yelena Bonner to the “closed city” of Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod, Russia) in retaliation for the advocacy of Dr. Sakharov against the USSR invasion of Afghanistan, which he later called “a war of annihilation, a terrible sin”;

Whereas President Reagan proclaimed May 21, 1983, as National Andrei Sakharov Day, an occasion for the people of the United States to “reaffirm that, despite attempts at repression, the ideals of peace and freedom will endure and ultimately triumph”;

Whereas Mikhail Gorbachev released Dr. Sakharov and Yelena Bonner from exile in December 1986, one of the most significant steps in implementing a loosening of political controls under perestroika and glasnost;

Whereas, in 1989, Dr. Sakharov became a deputy of the Congress of People Deputies, the first legislative body in the USSR that permitted debate, which used the moral authority of Dr. Sakharov to try to democratize Soviet political processes, including an end to 1-party rule;

Whereas the courageous efforts of Dr. Sakharov against totalitarian repression in the USSR inspired political reforms that swept Europe throughout 1989;

Whereas, on his death in 1989, the White House noted that the voice of Dr. Sakharov “was an important dimension in the contemporary changes under way in Soviet soci-

ety”, changes that would culminate 2 years later in the collapse of the USSR and Soviet Communism; and

Whereas the work Dr. Sakharov began remains unfinished, which is evidenced by the May 18, 2021, cancellation by authorities of the Moscow Sakharov Center’s exhibit marking the centenary of the life of Dr. Sakharov: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the contributions made by Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov (referred to in this resolution as “Dr. Sakharov”) in the promotion of human dignity and political freedom in his own country and around the world;

(2) recognizes that the example set by Dr. Sakharov has inspired millions around the world working to promote democratic principles; and

(3) expresses support for democracy and human rights activists around the world, especially in Russia, who embody the principles and values practiced by Dr. Sakharov.

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—AFFIRMING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY, INCLUSIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND IMPROVED LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, PARTICULARLY FOR GIRLS, IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES THROUGH THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 240

Whereas access to quality education reduces poverty, advances economic prosperity, improves peace and security, and strengthens public health;

Whereas the United Nations reported that 1,600,000,000 learners in more than 190 countries were affected by the closure of educational institutions at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas prior to the COVID crisis, the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report, an annual accountability tool on the status of education internationally, found that an estimated 258,000,000 children and adolescents are out of school worldwide, with girls and children with disabilities more likely to be out of school in most of the developing world;

Whereas a 2019 UNICEF Report found that only one in every five children in low-income countries has access to preprimary education;

Whereas a 2019 World Bank Report found that more than half of all children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read a simple story by age 10;

Whereas a 2020 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report found that children and adolescents with a sensory, physical, or intellectual disability are two and a half times more likely to have never been in school than their peers without disabilities;

Whereas a 2018 UNICEF Report found that one in three children and adolescents are out of school in countries affected by conflict or disaster;

Whereas a 2020 UNHCR Report found that almost half of school-age refugee children are out of school and, of the refugee children who do start primary school, less than half make it to secondary school;

Whereas a 2018 World Bank Report found that 12 years of quality education for every

girl would boost economies by as much as \$30 trillion in increased lifetime earnings and that each year of secondary education for girls reduces the likelihood of marriage before the age of 18 by five percentage points or more;

Whereas the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) was founded in 2002 as the only public-private global partnership exclusively dedicated to education in the world’s poorest countries;

Whereas GPE-eligible countries are home to more than 1,000,000,000 children and adolescents, which represent 82 percent of out-of-school children;

Whereas GPE focuses on improving education at a systems level, aligning partners behind each government’s education sector plan, to leverage the profound transformations required to deliver at least one year of preschool and 12 years of quality education for every child;

Whereas GPE works in the countries with the greatest need, targets the hardest to reach children, and can respond quickly to emergencies;

Whereas educational continuity helps partners keep their education systems functioning through wars, displacement crises, climate disasters and health emergencies, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas GPE is a proven and effective aid delivery mechanism that complements the United States Government’s bilateral basic education programs by fostering coordination among all key partners, supporting the development and implementation of strong national education sector plans, and building on the commitment of developing country governments to expand quality educational opportunities for children in an equitable manner;

Whereas the United States is among the leading supporters of GPE, is represented on the GPE Board of Directors, and currently serves the critical role of Coordinating Agent in eight GPE partner countries;

Whereas United States Government Strategy on Basic Education, Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023, resolves to leverage GPE to advance its goal of achieving a world where education systems in partner countries enable all individuals to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society;

Whereas GPE is working with Education Cannot Wait, at global and country level, to develop optimized approaches to advance UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and provide inclusive and equitable quality education for all, especially the most marginalized children in crisis situations;

Whereas primary enrollment for girls has increased by 65 percent and almost three-quarters of partner countries have achieved gender parity in school completion;

Whereas in 40 percent of partner countries, GPE’s partnership supports one or more activities relating to children with disabilities;

Whereas GPE is the largest provider of education grants in the global COVID-19 response, mobilizing over \$500,000,000 to ensure continued learning, school reopenings, and recovery;

Whereas GPE support incentivized governments to save more than \$6,000,000,000 through more efficient education spending, freeing up more funds to invest in education for the most marginalized;

Whereas more than 60 percent of GPE’s spending is in countries affected by conflict or fragility, and GPE helped these countries to increase their primary school completion rates from 58 percent in 2002 to 68 percent in 2018;

Whereas GPE’s 5-year strategic plan calls for leveraging and further developing innovative finance mechanisms to get every child